Naval History

Why study history?

- “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”

George Santayna

- “The study of histories lies at the foundation of all sound military conclusions and practice.”

Alfred T. Mahan

The Birthday of the Navy

- What is the Navy's birthday?
- Oct 13th, 1775.
- The Second Continental Congress authorized the purchase of two vessels.
- Name them---

The Continental Navy

- The colonies depended on the sea for their livelihood.
- When the war began the British blocked the very ports the colonies needed.
- These were the ports from which they sought to send ships of a tiny and hastily organized naval force to face the mightiest sea power in the world.

Ships of the Continental Navy

- Ships-of-the line: These were the battleships of the sailing days. They carried from 64 to over 100 guns.
- Frigates: The cruisers of the 18th century. Usually smaller and faster. They carried 28 to 44 guns.
- Sloops-of-war: The smallest warships. They carried 10 to 20 guns.

Ships of the Continental Navy cont.

- Privateers: Were commissioned by the Continental Congress and by the states to capture British merchant ships as prizes of war. The British Navy considered them pirates.

The First US Submarine

- David Bushnell, a Yale medical student designed and made a small submarine. He called it the “Turtle”. It could make 3 knots on calm seas and stay under water for 30 minutes.
- Sergeant Ezra Lee, a Connecticut militia volunteer attacked the HMS Eagle, but was unsuccessful.

Life in the Continental Navy

- Enlisted members worked on one cruise and then were let go.
- Officer and Enlisted did not eat or sleep in the same area.
- Ships were organized in the same manner as today: Departments and Divisions

Ranks in the Continental Navy

- Captain of the Ship-Commanding Officer
- Lieutenant of the Ship-There were several different ones. The First Lieutenant was the senior Lieutenant and second in command. Lieutenants ran the departments.
- Midshipmen-Officers in training. They ran the different divisions.

Ranks in the Continental Navy

- Warrant Officers-The Sailing Master, Purser, Boatswain, Gunner, Carpenter, and Sailmaker. They ran the division under the Midshipmen and Officers.
- Seamen, Landlubbers, and Powderboys. These were the junior enlisted members of the ships crew.

Continental Navy Actions

- Who was the first Commander in Chief?
- Esak Hoskins sailed the first squadron of ships out to sea. The USS Providence, USS Wasp headed by the USS Alfred made an amphibious assault on the British owned island of New Providence. Over 200 sailors and marines made the assault that captured guns and supplies.

Continental Navy Actions cont.

- The USS Providence made hit and run attacks on the heavily guarded convoy sailing in a heavy fog. They captured 11 ships and cargo worth a million dollars.
- Ships captured by either side were in turn used against the former owners.

John Paul Jones

- The father of our highest Naval traditions.
- He raided the English town of Whitehaven. The only time the American Navy attacked English soil.
- On 14 Feb, 1778, Captain Jones sailed into Quiberon Bay, France and received a salute by the French Fleet in anchored there.

John Paul Jones

- The Battle between the USS Bonhomme Richard and HMS Serapis is considered one of the greatest naval battles in history.
- During the battle as the both ships were locked together, Captain Jones was asked if he'd struck his colors. Jones replied "Struck sir, I have not yet begun to fight".
- The words motivated the crew and they won the fight.

The US Navy from 1783 to the Civil War

- In 1783 the Navy was disbanded and all of the ships were sold. In 1785 the last ship, the USS Alliance, was sold off.
- In 1794 the Congress understood that a strong Navy was our first defense. So they authorized the purchase of six new frigates of a new more modern design.

The Early Years

- The Quasi War with France 1798-1801 was fought entirely by the Navy. The war was the baptism of fire for the Navy.
- The Barbary States War-The Navy was sent to the Med to deal with the Barbary States that were forcing nations to pay to sail there.

USS Philadelphia

- LT Stephen Decatur and 84 seamen slipped into the harbor of Tripoli on 16 Feb 1804. They burned the captured Frigate Philadelphia. Not a single American sailor was lost. Admiral Lord Nelson called the raid “One of the most bold and daring acts of the age”.

The War of 1812

- The war was brought on, in part because of the British impressing American seaman.
- On 19 Aug, 1812, Captain Isaac Hull aboard the USS Constitution defeated the British frigate HMS Guerriere. The Constitution earned the nickname “Old Ironsides” because the British cannonballs were bouncing off her hull.

The war of 1812 cont

- On 10 Sept, 1813 Captain Oliver Hazard Perry defeated a British squadron on Lake Erie. On his dispatch was the famous quote “We have met the enemy and they are ours”. His victory cut the British supply line in the north and secured the Northwest Territory for the US.

The Years from 1815

- Steam power started powering ships. Robert Fulton designed the first Steam powered paddlewheel ship.
- The USS Demologos was the first Navy ship to use steam.

1815 to the Civil War

- In 1843 The Navy launched it first iron-hulled warship – the Paddle sloop USS Michigan.
- Other advancements during this time were stronger engines, screw propellers, and coal was used instead of wood.
- Commodore Matthew Perry signed a a treaty with Japan on 31 March, 1854 to open Japan up to trade.

The Civil War

- Ironclads – The Confederate Government raised the frigate Merrimack. It was renamed the CSS Virginia by the confederacy. The confederates laid iron plates on her side. She fought in Hampton Bay against the Federal fleet and sunk several large ships.

The Civil War cont.

- The USS Monitor was designed to fight the Virginia. It looked like a cheese box on a raft. The Monitor had a revolving turret. The first of it kind. The Monitor and Virginia fought each other all day to an indecisive conclusion.

Naval Actions during the Civil War

- What was the first Submarine to make a successful attack on an enemy ship?
- The CSS Hunley
- The Hunley sunk the USS Housatonic at night. The sinking of the Housatonic swamped the Hunley and she sank with all hands on board.

Other Civil War Actions

- Capture of Vicksburg – Rear Admiral Farragut Naval Forces working with Major General Grant's Army of Tennessee captured the city of Vicksburg, MS. In effect cutting the Confederate States in half.
- Battle of Mobile Bay – Admiral Farragut gave the order "Damn the torpedoes! Full speed ahead". This order sent a Federal fleet into Mobile Bay and captured one of the south's most important port cities.

After the Civil War

- Surface Ships – Iron was used in the framing and hull of ships. New types of guns were designed. The Long range torpedo was perfected.
- Subsurface Ships – The USS Holland was designed in 1898. It was the first Submarine in service in the US Navy.

The Spanish-American War

- On 15 Feb, 1898, The battleship USS Maine was sunk by an explosion in Havana Harbor, Cuba. The explosion killed 250 American sailors.
- On 1 May, 1898, Commodore George Dewey attack the Spanish Fleet in Manila Bay. The Battle started when Dewey gave the order “You may fire when ready, Gridley”. No Americans died in this fight.

From 1900 to World War I

- Submarines – Diesel engines were added to subs during this time. They made the subs faster and easier to maintain.
- Naval Aviation – In April 1911 The Office of Naval Aviation consisted of only one Captain. Later in the year he ordered two wooden biplanes.
- Eugene Ely flew a plane off the USS Pennsylvania and landed onboard again.

Pre World War I

- On 6 April, 1909, Commander Robert Perry reached the North Pole.
- On 16 Dec 1907, The Great White Fleet left the US for an around the world showing of the flag.

World War I

- On 17 Nov, 1917 the destroyers USS Nicholson and USS Fanning were the first US ships to sink an enemy sub.
- Women enlisted in the Navy as Yeomen(F) By the end of WWI 11,275 enlisted women were in the Navy. They were all released by 31 July, 1919.

1920-1940

- Aircraft Carriers – The USS Ranger was the first carrier designed from the keel up. The USS Enterprise , USS Wasp, USS Hornet, and USS Yorktown also were built during this time. Fleet Commanders liked the flexibility of the aircraft carrier.

World War II

- On 7 Dec 1941, The Japanese Navy attacked the Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor Hawaii. They sunk and damaged several Battleships. The main targets were the carriers that were at sea at the time of the attack.

Naval Battles of World War II

- What was the first battle that the combatants did not see each other?
- The Battle of Coral Sea. It was totally fought with air power. Japan lost one carrier and had two damaged. The US Navy lost the USS Lexington. Australia was saved from invasion.

Naval Battles of WWII

- What battle was the turning point of the war in the Pacific?
- The Battle of Midway
- What was the first battle that involved an invasion my Sailors and Marines?
- The Battle of Guadalcanal
- It was the start of the island hopping campaign.

Naval Battles of WWII

- The Battle of Philippine Sea ended the Japanese Carrier Fleet. The US Navy attacked and sunk the last of the Japanese carriers.
- The final blow came during the Battle of Leyte Gulf. The Japanese Air Fleet was demolished. The end of the war was in sight.

WWII

- The Atlantic Fleet was moving supplies and troops through German U-boat country.
- When was the largest amphibious operations in history conducted?
- D-Day Jun 6, 1944. The Navy supported the invasion with shore bombardment, minesweeping , and transporting troops and supplies to the shore.
- US Submarines cut the supply lanes to Japan and and helped win the war effort.

End of WWII

- The surrender of Japan was signed on the deck of the battleship USS Missouri.
- The Women's Reserve was established on 30 July, 1942. The goal was 10,000 enlisted and 1,000 officers. Women were allowed to be Yeomen, Storekeepers, and Radiomen. Later Language schools opened up for women.

Post War Years

- The Navy was involved in several operations during the time between WWII and the Korean Conflict. They explored the Antarctic continent. Developed Nuclear power and used it in submarines. The Navy also was looking into advanced aircraft and aircraft carriers.

The Korean Conflict

- The Navy was called in to support the ground forces with air strikes and close air support. The Navy used helicopters for the first time for search and rescue and medical flights.
- The Navy supported the amphibious landing at Inchon with a massive shore bombardment and air strikes.

Korea to Vietnam

- The USS Nautilus was put to sea on 17 Jan 1955. It was the first ship to use nuclear power.
- The Navy developed ballistic missiles during this time. It gave the Navy a true first strike weapon.

Korea to Vietnam

- Who was the first Navy person to explore space?
- Commander Alan Shepard made the first sub-orbital flight.
- The Surface Navy was also improved. They started using guided missiles, and nuclear power.

Vietnam

- The Navy supported Army operations in South Vietnam with air strikes and shore bombardment. The Navy also used river boat patrols.
- Name the first nuclear powered aircraft carrier:
- USS Enterprise

The Modern Navy

- The Navy was involved in exploration of the undersea world. The USS Alvin dived to the depth of 6,000 feet.
- Space exploration was very important during this time. 5 of the 6 men that walked on the moon were former naval aviators.

Desert Shield/Desert Storm

- The Navy carried more than 18.3 billion pounds of cargo and supplies to the Persian Gulf. 21,000 Reservist were called to active duty.
- The Navy supported the air war by flying air cover and launching ground strikes in Iraq. The Surface Fleet also launched cruise missiles at targets deep in Iraq.

TRIVIA

- WHAT WAS THE NAVY'S FIRST AIRPLANE?
- A-1
- FLOWN BY WHOM:
- LT ELLYSON, FIRST NAVAL AVIATOR

TRIVIA

- WHAT YEAR WAS THE WOMENS INTEGRATION ACT SIGNED ALLOWING WOMEN TO REMAIN IN THE NAVY
- JUNE 12, 1948

Summary

- The US Navy began more than 200 years ago with 2 ships, but today we are the finest naval force in history.
- The Navy will continue to change and improve.

Questions???